

# **EAST SARPY SALVAGE TIMBER SALE**

April 17, 2006 Land Board

## **Location of Sale:**

- Southern Land Office – Approximately 25 air miles northeast of Hardin, Montana
- Bighorn County – Section 36, T2N, R37E

## **Sale Volume & Estimated Value:**

- The estimated volume is 4,283 tons (571 MBF) with an estimated minimum bid value of \$21,415.00.
- Of the 4,283 tons, 2,910 tons (388 MBF) is fire killed salvage volume and 1,373 tons (183 MBF) is unburned green timber.
- In addition to the stumpage value, a fee of \$0.40/ton for Forest Improvement will be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested
- 7.5 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

## **Sale & Harvest Treatments:**

- The sale totals 297 acres.
- Silvicultural prescriptions for the salvage area include salvage harvest of all fire-killed ponderosa pine that meets the minimum merchantability specifications (16' log to an 8" top dib). Trees in the salvage area that have greater than 50% green crown will be left. The salvage harvest area is 201 acres in one harvest unit.
- The silvicultural prescription for the unburned area will include an individual tree selection favoring dominant and co-dominant ponderosa pine as leave trees. The harvest area for the unburned area is 96 acres in two harvest units.
- There is no old growth harvest.

## **Harvest System:**

- 100% tractor

## **Road Construction:**

- Approximately 1.5 miles of temporary spur road will be constructed to access the harvest units. Temporary spur roads will be ripped and seeded to native grass species at the completion of use.
- All non-temporary spur roads, existing roads on state land and private access roads will be constructed and maintained to meet current BMP requirements.
- All fire line constructed on state land during the suppression of this fire will be reclaimed. Reclamation will include pulling berms and construction of drainage features such as water bars.

## **Public Involvement & Issues:**

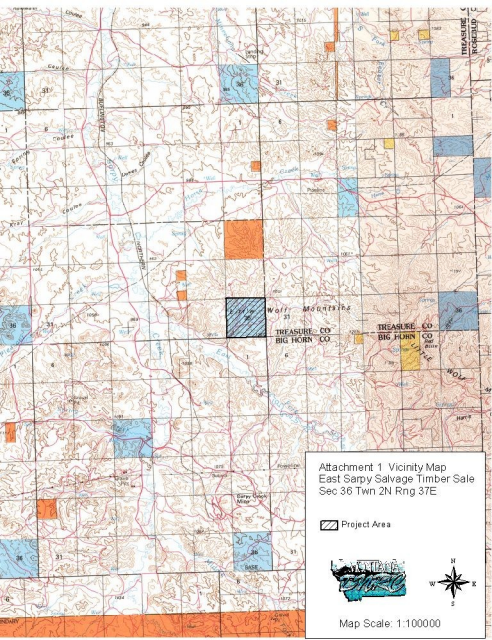
- The lessee of the state land contacted DNRC March 7, 2006 and informed the department of a possible salvage opportunity. The emergency nature of the salvage opportunity and the immediate need for action to limit the loss in value

of the burned timber has limited the comment process to resource professionals, the lessee, an adjacent landowner, and the Montana Natural Heritage Program. No significant issues have been identified. Delay in the implementation of the project will cause further degradation of the burned sawlog material and further loss in value.

**Issues and Mitigations:**

- **Streams** – There are no streams within the harvest units
- **Road Use/Access** - Access to the sale area is across existing roads through private property. The DNRC will secure a signed temporary road use agreement with the owner of the private land. The landowner has verbally agreed to allow access. The purchaser will be responsible for all stipulations, fees and requirements of the temporary road use agreement.
- **Grazing Lease** – The grazing lease for Section 36 T2N R37E is held by the same private landowner that will be granting the Department access. This landowner/lessee is in favor of the project.

**The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the East Sarpy Salvage Timber Sale.**



Attachment 1 Vicinity Map  
East Sary Salvage Timber Sale  
Sec 36 Twn 2N Rng 37E

 Project Area



Map Scale: 1:100000

